

A. Lee Fritschler, Public Policy, George Mason University

Candidate Biography

A. Lee Fritschler is Professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Immediately prior to that appointment he was Vice President and Director of the Center for Public Policy Education at the Brookings Institution.

Professor Fritschler was appointed by President Clinton to the position Assistant Secretary of Education which he held from 1999-2001. He was responsible for setting higher education policy and administering the department's higher education programs.

He was a member of the Steering Committee of the European University Association and was involved in the refinement of protocols for the Association. During his six years with the Association, ending in 2010, he was the member of small groups of experts, which evaluated universities in Ireland and Portugal.

Prior to joining the Department, Professor Fritschler was President of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, from 1987 until his retirement in June 1999. As President of Dickinson, he emphasized international education, undergraduate science, and foreign languages. In 1991, he was Vice President for the Center for Public Policy Education at The Brookings Institution from 1981-1987, and served as the Chairman of the U.S. Postal Rate Commission, after having been nominated by President Carter, from 1979-1981.

From 1977 to 1979, Fritschler was dean of the college of public and international affairs at the American University, Washington, and D.C.

Fritschler is the author of books and articles on health, regulatory and education policies and a member of many boards and professional societies. His books include *Smoking and Politics: Bureaucracy Centered Policy Making*, Sixth Edition (2007: Prentice-Hall), which was co-authored by his Mason colleague, Catherine E. Rudder. He has been a guest lecturer on numerous occasions.

Candidate Statement

I seek election to the AAUP Council because this is where my experience can best serve the professoriate and the interests of our students during these troubling times. My years as a public policy professor, university administrator, and Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education in the US Department of Education, plus my deeply felt apprehension over recent efforts by the Department of Education to expand its influence over higher education, have prepared me for this challenge.

The Department of Education has inserted itself into areas which for decades have been the rightful province of the professoriate. These areas include the evaluation of students, graduation rates, transfer of credit among institutions and the definition of credit hours. Judith Eaton, the President of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation has put it succinctly: "The challenge is fundamental: Who, going forward, will have the primary authority and

responsibility for academic quality?

“(Change, September October 2007). I say the faculty should retain this responsibility.

My aforementioned experiences have afforded me the understanding and skills necessary to deal effectively with these issues. The AAUP is the only national organization representing faculty in Washington public policy debates. It is positioned like no other organization to represent faculty views on the broad and intrusive policy proposals currently under consideration. With your support, I can add my voice to this vital debate at the AAUP Council.